



EASTHAMPTON

Hampshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Easthampton is a residential and manufacturing community located in Hampshire County, approximately 14 miles north of Springfield and 96 miles west of Boston. The town, with roughly 13.6 square miles of land area is a broad, relatively level valley bordered on the east by the steep slopes of Mount Tom. Easthampton's downtown maintains a New England village character which is an architecturally attractive and historically significant feature of the community. The first settlers arrived in Easthampton around 1664, and the town was incorporated in 1785. Easthampton was an agrarian village until the mid-1800's when manufacturing became a major force in the local economy. Mills proliferated along the banks of the Manhan taking advantage of the water power. In 1861, the Nashawannuck Company became the first U.S. manufacturer to successfully use vulcanized rubber in woven goods. Industrial expansion continued into the 20th century, and by 1927 Easthampton had a dozen factories producing yarn, thread, buttons and elastic materials. Residents are committed to promoting industry and a central downtown area. Many area towns have become bedroom communities and succumbed to commercialstrip development; Easthampton is fighting to focus on the Easthampton center and industrial areas as the place for economic development. Easthampton today has twenty manufacturing firms which create 46% of the jobs in Easthampton. Several firms have headquarters or major plants in Easthampton, including Stanhome, Inc., the National Felt Company, Kellogg Brush Manufacturing Company and Tubed Products, Inc. Easthampton's location gives the town favorable access to prime transportation routes. Two highway corridors, Routes 10 and 141, serve the town. Route 10 runs north-south and provides direct access to east connecting it with I-91 and the Massachusetts Turnpike. Easthampton offers numerous opportunities for education and recreation. Nonotuck Park is a beautiful regional recreation area containing 190 acres for active and passive activities. The Massachusetts Audubon Society manages the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary which provides educational programs for adults and children. The Manhan River flows past the center of the town eventually reaching the Connecticut River, and there is fishing on Nashawannuck Pond. Easthampton is also home to the Williston Northampton School, a private secondary college prep school which recently received a blue ribbon educational award, ranking it one of the top private schools in the country.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Hadley on the northeast, Holyoke on the south and east, Northampton on the north, and Southampton and Westhampton on the west. Easthampton is 14 miles north of Springfield, 96 miles west of Boston, and 148 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 13.60 sq. miles

Land Area: 13.41 sq. miles

Population: 15,537

Density: 1,159 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Knightville Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.7°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Easthampton, Mount Tom

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 529-1470

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Mayor - Council

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1785

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 8,526

Democrats 3,055 35.8 % Republicans 774 9.1 % Other parties 3 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 4,694 55.1 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Easthampton city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	15,994	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	15,994	100.0
Male.....	7,687	48.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	396	2.1
Female.....	8,307	51.9	Mexican.....	29	0.2
Under 5 years.....	854	5.3	Puerto Rican.....	226	1.4
5 to 9 years.....	936	5.9	Cuban.....	3	-
10 to 14 years.....	966	6.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	78	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	952	6.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	15,658	97.9
20 to 24 years.....	866	5.4	White alone.....	15,125	94.6
25 to 34 years.....	2,391	14.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,796	17.5	Total population.....	15,994	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,710	16.9	In households.....	15,950	99.7
55 to 59 years.....	757	4.7	Householder.....	6,854	42.9
60 to 64 years.....	504	3.2	Spouse.....	3,226	20.2
65 to 74 years.....	1,040	6.5	Child.....	4,241	26.5
75 to 84 years.....	948	5.9	Own child under 18 years.....	3,081	19.3
85 years and over.....	274	1.7	Other relatives.....	598	3.7
Median age (years).....	38.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	206	1.3
18 years and over.....	12,612	78.9	Nonrelatives.....	1,031	6.4
Male.....	5,965	37.3	Unmarried partner.....	532	3.3
Female.....	6,647	41.6	In group quarters.....	44	0.3
21 years and over.....	12,112	75.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	2,540	15.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	44	0.3
65 years and over.....	2,262	14.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	884	5.5	Total households.....	6,854	100.0
Female.....	1,378	8.6	Family households (families).....	4,170	60.8
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,787	26.1
One race.....	15,841	99.0	Married-couple family.....	3,226	47.1
White.....	15,260	95.4	With own children under 18 years.....	1,302	19.0
Black or African American.....	102	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	693	10.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	23	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	366	5.3
Asian.....	275	1.7	Nonfamily households.....	2,684	39.2
Asian Indian.....	27	0.2	Householder living alone.....	2,085	30.4
Chinese.....	47	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	765	11.2
Filipino.....	7	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,954	28.5
Japanese.....	5	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,691	24.7
Korean.....	25	0.2	Average household size.....	2.33	(X)
Vietnamese.....	15	0.1	Average family size.....	2.93	(X)
Other Asian ¹	149	0.9	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	7,083	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	6,854	96.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	229	3.2
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	25	0.4
Some other race.....	180	1.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	153	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	6,854	100.0
White.....	15,400	96.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,159	60.7
Black or African American.....	128	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	2,695	39.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	94	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.59	(X)
Asian.....	305	1.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.92	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	-			
Some other race.....	228	1.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	193
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Easthampton is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic location in the Connecticut River Valley and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate 91, U.S. Route 5, and State Routes 10 and 141.

Rail

Freight service is available from the Pioneer Valley Railroad and the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number Pioneer Valley Railroad: (413) 568-3331; STRR: contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Easthampton is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), which provides fixed route service between Northampton, Easthampton, and Holyoke. The PVTA also offers paratransit services to the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

The LaFleur Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in nearby Northampton, has a 3,506'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Barnes Airport in Westfield and Westover Air Field in Chicopee are nearby.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

Massachusetts Audubon at Arcadia

127 Combs Road

(413) 584-3009

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Hampshire Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.